

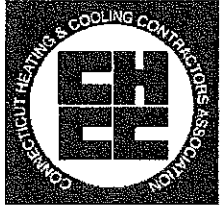
Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

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MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972



TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER JENNINGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 7, 2013

2013

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The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following comments in opposition to HB-5749, An Act Concerning Revisions To The State Building Code:

Members of the heating and cooling industry have concerns with this legislation, since it appears to allow for skipping code adoptions for several years, as is currently the practice, rather than updating the codes more frequently.

Unfortunately, the State of Connecticut continually lags behind other states in adopting the most recent versions of the International Mechanical Code and the International Fuel Gas Code.

Technological changes and advancements in heating and cooling equipment and in installation requirements can create public safety concerns if such changes and advancements are not reflected in current code. Having the most recent versions of the codes adopted and enforced helps protect consumers and employees alike. In addition to failing to incorporate changes that are intended to update safety practices for workers and consumers, this creates a disconnect between the code that is used in the field for enforcement purposes and the code that is used to train apprentices and test HVAC license applicants. Ensuring that the performance of heating and cooling work is held to highest and most recent standards helps maintain the highest possible level of safety, training and professionalism for our industry, and for consumers.

CHCC thanks the Public Safety Committee for its consideration of our comments and recommends no action on the bill.

CHCC is a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.